Castro Blasts U.S. During Senators' Trip

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From News Dispatches

HAVANA, Sept. 29—As the first U.S. Senators to visit Cuba in 13 years watched on television, Prime Minister Fidel Castro attacked President Ford in one of the harshest anti-American speeches he has delivered in recent years.

Speaking last night to hundreds of thousands of Cubans celebrating the anniversary of the grass-roots Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, Castro assailed the involvement of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Chile and said the United States alone is responsible for the world economic crisis.

Alluding to President Ford's recent defense of CIA funding of groups opposed to the late President Salvador Allende of Chile, Castro said: "The new president of the United States, to the surprise and stupefaction of Latin American public opinion, has declared that such actions were carried out in the best interests of the United States.

"Thus, the government of the United States proclaims openly the right to intervene by any means, regardless of how illicit, dirty or criminal, in the internal processes of the nations of the hemisphere."

Castro, who in speeches over recent years had toned down his criticism of the United States, made his remarks on the same weekend that the first members of Congress were visiting here since before relations were broken in 1961.

Sens. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) and Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) watched the speech on television at the home of the Swiss charge d'affaires, who handles U.S. interests here. The senators were scheduled to meet with Castro before their departure for home on Monday.

Only hours before Castro spoke, Javits told newsmen after a meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa that it was his clear impression that Cuba was prepared to discuss a more normal relationship with the United States.

Castro's speech was unusually short, 45 minutes, but was devoted exclusively to his grievances with the United States. Half of the address dwelt on Ford's appeal to oil-producing countries for a lowering of oil prices.

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Castro Hits Ford, CIA In Speech

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Castro said international inflation is a result of American policies. Alluding to the "hundreds of billions of dollars" the United States has spent on its "war budget" Castro said: "In these deplorable imperialistic policies are the roots of inflation, which emerged long before the oil price increases."

Castro's speech was interrupted several times by chants of 'Fidel, Fidel, Hit the Yankees hard!"

Twenty-nine American journalists, the largest group admitted to Cuba since relations were broken off, were given priviledged positions in the stands near Castro as he spoke in the Plaza de la Revolucion above a sea of waving Cuban flags.

Castro also lashed at the Organization of American States, which is to meet in Ecuador in November to vote on lifting the trade embargo imposed on Cuba in 1964.

Describing the OAS as a "prostitute, shameless and ridiculous" and an instrument of the worst form of neo-colonialism," Castro called on Latin American states to form an organization excluding the United States. During their visit here, Javits and Pell have met with many top Cuban leaders as well as visiting several showcase places of interest and walking freely through the streets of Havana.

[In Miami, a Cuban exile group said it had sent the two senators a telegran suggesting they request to visit political prisoners in concentration camps and forced labor."]